Illegal trade in Ozone depleting substances

646. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an independent international agency has declared India as a home for illegal trade in Ozone depleting substances;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hundreds of tonnes of ODS was smuggled into India last year; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to protect the environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Environmental Investigation Agency, a Non Governmental Organisation has reported smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) into India. There have been a few cases of smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances and action has been taken. All the field' formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to thwart any attempts of smuggling of Ozone Depleting Substances.

Unpaid staffs of Palamau and Simlipal Reserve Forests

647. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of Palamau and Simlipal reserve forests are not paid salaries on time; and

(b) whether the Union Government are not sending funds in the tiger reserves in time?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of India under the Project Tiger Scheme has